

IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group

2018 Report



Chuck Knapp



Stesha Pasachnik

Co-Chairs

Chuck Knapp (1)
Stesha Pasachnik (2)

Red List Authority Coordinator

Tandora Grant (3)

Location/Affiliation

(1) Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, Illinois, US
(2) Fort Worth Zoo, Fort Worth, Texas, US
(3) San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research, San Diego, California, US

Number of members

89

Social networks

Website:
www.iucn-isg.org



Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group (ISG) is to prioritise and facilitate conservation, science, and awareness programs that help ensure the survival of wild iguanas and their habitats. To achieve this, we implement, advise and fundraise for programs that include population surveys, protected areas management, invasive species control, field research, genetic studies, education and captive breeding/headstarting initiatives. Headstarting, in which hatchling iguanas are raised in a safe, captive environment until they reach a larger, less vulnerable size, is proving invaluable in rescuing several Critically Endangered iguanid taxa from the brink of extinction.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we envision improved status for many of our threatened species in Central America, the Caribbean, Fiji, and the Galapagos. Most of our programs focus on species that are Critically Endangered (CR) or Endangered (EN) due to habitat alteration and invasive alien species (IAS). The Jamaican Rock Iguana, *Cyclura collei*, is a flagship species for our group and one of the most threatened species of iguana in the world. Efforts are underway to expand the area of occupancy through intensive IAS control efforts. Due to recent devastating events, intensive efforts are underway to prevent the extinction of *Iguana delicatissima* by hybridisation with *Iguana iguana*. Capacity building is ongoing for several species in Honduras, listed in a threatened category. Taxonomic work is underway to better understand the diversity within Iguaninae and thus guide our management and conservation actions.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: Complete Red List assessments for 40 species of iguanas.

Plan

Planning: (1) complete action plans for 22 species of iguana; (2) compile and curate public outreach assets that can be modified and used by group members; (3) develop a rapid response protocol for assisting partners impacted by hurricanes.

Network

Membership: maintain and increase the use of the membership listserv by 50%.

Communicate

Communication: (1) publish four annual issues of *Iguana Specialist Group Newsletter*; (2) increase publications in virtual library by 50 articles; (3) update Invasive Iguana Position Statement.

Scientific meetings: convene four annual meetings.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. Thirteen assessments were completed in 2018 (4 published, 9 in the submission queue held over from IUCN Red List update 2018.2). (KSR #1)

Plan

Planning

i. A Recovery Plan workshop was held for Fijian Iguanas and a draft of the published plan is in progress. In 2018, planning started for the

The last major stronghold for the Lesser Antillean Iguana (*Iguana delicatissima*) on Dominica was invaded by Common Green Iguana after the hurricanes of 2017. The ISG is mobilizing resources to try and thwart their spread
Photo: Charles Knapp



The Common Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) has been translocated around the globe by the pet trade and causes significant damage in its non-native range. The ISG has developed a position statement on invasive iguanas to inform governments about the serious threats they pose to their economies and what they can do about it.
Photo: Nick Pitman



Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana (*Cyclura carinata*); preparations have started for a workshop to revise the Species Recovery Plan for this iguana
Photo: Glenn Gerber

following two items: a workshop to revise the Species Recovery Plan for Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana (*Cyclura carinata*) will be held summer 2019; a Species Recovery Plan workshop for Roatan Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura oedirhina*) and Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura bakeri*) will be held in November 2019. (KSR #15)

ii. Public outreach assets continue to be collected after an additional request at the 2018 ISG meeting and through the listserv. Next step includes creating an online and dynamic repository. (KSR #18)

iii. Rapid-response technology assets and communication strategies were discussed at the 2018 ISG meeting. There was a strong support response for post Hurricane Maria needs in early 2018 for Dominica. We are investigating means to mobilise funding to activate response to action. (KSR #18)

Network

Membership

i. Sixty-one messages were shared within the ISG Listserv during 2018, including contributions by members beyond the Co-Chairs and Program Officer.

Communicate

Communication

i. We have completed the 2017 newsletter and are working on the 2018 newsletter. (KSR #28)

ii. Four hundred and five iguana-related publications added to the Virtual Library in 2018. (KSR #28)

iii. The ISG position statement on non-native invasive iguanas was updated with collective input and is posted on the ISG website. (KSR #28)

Scientific meetings

i. An annual meeting in Fort Worth, Texas (US) was organised and convened by over 50 ISG members; more than 30 presentations were given, and 10 in-depth discussions had by the group; the ISG organised an auction and raised more than US\$ 3,000 for our travel grant program; a code of conduct for ISG members was shared; Red List assessments were conducted.

Acknowledgements

We thank the International Iguana Foundation, and their donors, for the financial support of eight projects conducted in 2018, totalling US\$ 66,463, focused on iguana conservation in Central America, the Caribbean, Fiji, and the Galapagos. We also acknowledge the efforts of Ty Park for organising the Iguanafest – a fundraiser to support iguana conservation in 2018. We also thank those members who made donations in 2018 to our annual meeting travel fund, contributed to Red List assessments, participated in our meeting auction to raise funds for our travel awards, and participated in other ISG activities.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 4/5

Assess	1	
Plan	3	
Network	1	
Communicate	4	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 18, 28

KSR: Key Species Result